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SUBJECT Internal Troubles in the SED

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1. There has been violent opposition between Walter Ulbricht and the head of the West Commission of the SED, (German Socialist Unity Party) Karl Schirdewan, ever since the uprisings in June 1953.
2. Schirdewan was under the special protection of Yudin when he was in Soviet Germany. After Yudin's departure for the East, Ulbricht tried to secure the ejection from his posts of Schirdewan, who already had difficulties in 1952. Ulbricht, however, encountered energetic opposition in Karlshorst, where Schirdewan remains favorite.
3. Karlshorst now looks on Schirdewan as a coming man, although his promotion will hardly take place immediately after the Four Power Conference.
4. It is to be noted that Schirdewan took part in the seventh meeting of the Central Council of the SED (Free German Youth) on 7 Jan 54, as a member of the Politburo.
5. Ulbricht succeeded in having Walter Haehnel removed as a member of the West Commission. Haehnel belonged to Schirdewan's group and was also a follower of Franz Dohlem. Haehnel lived in France during the Nazi period under the name of Kurt Kunert, and after the war was a political instructor in the French and American zones.
6. Ulbricht has also been trying to get rid of the head of the travel section of the Central Committee of the SED, Richard Stahlmann, alias Arthur Illner, but Stahlmann is still on the job, supported by the Soviets.

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